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TORREYA

January, 1901

NOTES ON RUDBECKIA HIRTA L.

BY N. L. BRITTON

In Pittonia, 4: 174-180, recently published, Mr. Thomas V. Moore, a student of the Catholic University at Washington, working under the direction of Professor Greene, presents a valuable contribution to the arrangement and description of some of the species of *Rudbeckia* of the *hirta* group. In discussing *R. hirta* he takes exception, apparently with good reason, to the statement in Illustrated Flora, 3: 416, that this plant is native only on the western prairies, and is widely distributed in the East as a weed.

There can be no doubt, however, that the latter portion of this statement is quite true; at the time of publication of Dr. Torrey's Flora of the State of New York, in 1843, the only station for this species known in that State was near Buffalo, where it was collected by Dr. Sartwell; it is now one of the most abundant weeds in grass fields throughout, I think, nearly all portions of the State and is a pest to farmers in many counties, being exceedingly abundant everywhere within one hundred miles of New York City. No indication of its occurrence further east in the northern states is given in the first edition of Dr. Gray's Manual of 1848, where its range is cited from western New York to Wisconsin and southward. In the second edition of Dr. Gray's Manual, 1856, this is supplemented by the statement "also in southern New York (White Plains), and various parts of New England, but probably of recent introduction." In the sixth edition of Dr. Gray's Manual, 1890, the statement of the first edition is repeated, supplemented by "now common as a weed in eastern meadows, introduced with clover-seed from the West."

[The exact date of publication of each issue of TORREYA is given in the succeeding number]

It was the acceptance of the ranges cited by Gray which caused the limitation by me of the native habitat of the plant to the western prairies. I find, however, on reference to Dr. Darlington's *Florula Cestrica*, that the plant is recorded from Chester County, Pa., in 1826, though it is there said to be not common. In the third edition of the *Flora Cestrica*, 1853, it is recorded by Darlington as growing in "fence-rows and thickets, not common."

In 1857, Dr. Knieskern records it in his *Catalogue of Plants of Monmouth and Ocean County, New Jersey*, as occurring in dry fields, not common. In the *Catalogue of Plants of New Castle County, Delaware*, published in 1844, the species is admitted without question. In Dr. Aikin's *Catalogue of Plants of the vicinity of Baltimore, Md.*, 1837, the plant is said to grow in bushy meadows. According to Dr. Curtis' *Catalogue of Plants of North Carolina*, 1867, it is said to grow in all the districts of that State. In Dr. Elliott's *Botany of South Carolina and Georgia*, 1824, it is recorded as growing in dry sandy soil.

It seems to me from the above citations that the point made by Mr. Moore is well taken, and that there is no evidence that the species is not native on the Atlantic sea-board from Maryland or, perhaps, Pennsylvania, southward; that it has, however, been introduced, as Dr. Gray suggested, presumably from the West, into New York and New England, seems from its recorded history, equally certain.

SEEDLINGS OF ARISAEMA

BY D. T. MACDOUGAL

The writer has had the seedlings of *Arisaema triphyllum* and *A. Dracontium* under observation for some time in etiolation experiments and some facts of independent interest have been gathered and are presented here.

The general facts concerning the germination of *A. triphyllum* are familiar and need be recounted only briefly. The cylindrical cotyledon pushes out of the seed coats in about six